

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 6, 15 and 16 as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of characterizing a an unlabeled duplex nucleic acid molecule, said method comprising:
 - (a) contacting a conducting fluid medium comprising said unlabeled duplex nucleic acid with a nanopore;
 - (b) applying an electric field to said medium and monitoring current changes through said nanopore resulting from said unlabeled duplex nucleic acid to obtain a set of observed data values;
 - (c) evaluating said set of observed data values to identify a duplex nucleic acid specific signal; and
 - (d) characterizing said unlabeled duplex nucleic acid molecule based on said identified duplex nucleic acid specific signal;
~~to characterize said duplex nucleic acid molecule.~~
2. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said set of observed data values is manipulated in characterizing said duplex nucleic acid.
3. (Original) The method according to Claim 2, wherein said duplex nucleic acid is characterized in terms of a signature current blockade profile or portion thereof.
4. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, where said applied electric field is constant.
5. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said applied electric field is pulsed.
6. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying the presence of a an unlabeled duplex nucleic acid molecule in a conducting fluid medium, said method comprising:
 - (a) contacting said conducting fluid medium with a nanopore;

- (b) applying an electric field to said medium;
- (c) monitoring current changes through said nanopore to obtain a set of observed data values;
- (d) evaluating said set of observed data values to identify a duplex nucleic acid specific signal; and
- (e) determining whether said unlabeled duplex nucleic acid is present in said conducting fluid medium from said a duplex nucleic acid specific signal identified (d).

- 7. (Original) The method according to Claim 6, wherein said duplex nucleic acid molecule is a duplex DNA molecule.
- 8. (Original) The method according to Claim 6, wherein said applied electric field is constant.
- 9. (Original) The method according to Claim 6, wherein said applied electric field is pulsed.
- 10. (Original) The method according to Claim 6, wherein said conducting fluid medium includes a plurality of different duplex nucleic acids that differ from each other by sequence.
- 11. (Original) The method according to Claim 6, wherein said determining step (d) is performed by an automated means.
- 12. (Original) The method according to Claim 6, wherein said determining step (d) is manually performed.
- 13. (Original) A method of determining the sequence of a duplex DNA molecule, said method comprising:
 - (a) providing a fluid conducting medium comprising said duplex DNA molecule as a molecule that is protected at one end and blunt-ended at the other end;
 - (b) producing a single nucleotide overhang at said blunt end of said duplex DNA molecule;
 - (c) contacting said fluid conducting medium with a nanopore;
 - (d) applying an alternating electric field to said fluid conducting medium and monitoring current changes through said nanopore resulting from said duplex nucleic acid to obtain a set of

observed data values;

(e) removing said single nucleotide overhang from said duplex DNA molecule;

(f) repeating steps (b) to (e) to obtain a collection of sets of observed data values for each different duplex nucleic acid produced from said original duplex nucleic acid, and

(g) determining the sequence of said duplex DNA molecule from said collection of sets of observed data values;

to sequence said duplex DNA molecule.

14. (Original) The method according to Claim 13, wherein said determining step (g) is determined by an automated data processing means.

15. (Currently Amended) A nanopore device for characterizing a an unlabeled duplex nucleic acid molecule, said device comprising:

an algorithm for characterizing a an unlabeled duplex nucleic acid molecule based on evaluating observed current modulations through a nanopore to identify a duplex nucleic acid specific signal, wherein said algorithm is present on a computer readable medium.

16. (Currently Amended) A kit for use in characterizing a an unlabeled duplex nucleic acid molecule, said kit comprising:

an algorithm for characterizing a an unlabeled duplex nucleic acid molecule based on evaluating observed current modulations through a nanopore to identify a duplex nucleic acid specific signal, wherein said algorithm is present on a computer readable medium.

17. (Original) A kit for use in sequencing a duplex DNA molecule, said kit comprising:

a first enzyme that produces a single nucleotide overhang comprising duplex DNA molecule from a blunt ended duplex DNA molecule; and

a second enzyme that produce a blunt-ended duplex DNA molecule from a duplex DNA molecule that comprises a single nucleotide overhang.

18. (Original) The kit according to Claim 17, wherein said first enzyme is an exonuclease.

19. (Original) The kit according to Claim 17, wherein said second enzyme is a nuclease.

20. (Original) The kit according to Claim 17, wherein said kit further comprises an algorithm for characterizing a duplex nucleic acid molecule based on observed current modulations through a nanopore, wherein said algorithm is present on a computer readable medium.